

Application No.: 09/913,362
Amendment Dated: February 23, 2005
Reply to Office Action of: November 30, 2004

MAT-8172US

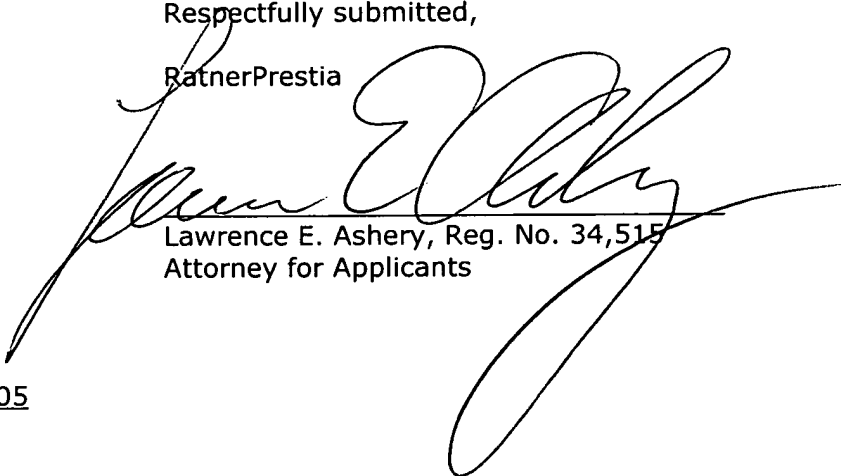
Remarks/Arguments:

Claims 1 and 27 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Ito et al. (5,581,180). Claims 1 and 27 were also rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Cotton et al. (6,320,375). Claims 11-14 and 28, however, were indicated as being allowable if rewritten into independent form. Accordingly, the features of claim 11 have been incorporated into all of the independent claims. As there is now an allowable independent claim, the previously withdrawn claims are now in condition for allowance.

The above-identified application is in condition for allowance, which action is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

RatnerPrestia


Lawrence E. Ashery, Reg. No. 34,515
Attorney for Applicants

LEA/fp

Dated: February 23, 2005

P.O. Box 980
Valley Forge, PA 19482
(610) 407-0700

The Commissioner for Patents is hereby authorized to charge payment to Deposit Account No. **18-0350** of any fees associated with this communication.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, with sufficient postage, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on:

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